



COMPLETE 2020 SEASON PREVIEW

# HAWK TALK PODCAST

\$1.00 US  
\$1.25 CAN  
255  
MID DEC  
© 02461

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE



NEW DECADE...  
NEW DYNASTY!





# HAWK TALK PODCAST

Complete Season 2020 Preview



## FIND US ONLINE

Apple Podcasts, Soundcloud

Facebook - [facebook.com/hawktalkpod](https://facebook.com/hawktalkpod)

Twitter - [twitter.com/hawktalkpod](https://twitter.com/hawktalkpod)

Patreon - [patreon.com/hawktalkpod](https://patreon.com/hawktalkpod)

## FOREWORD BY NICK MASON

I'm bored.

It's been a few years since Hawthorn last won a flag. A few years! This is cruel and unusual, and I'm bored.

But I can bear it, because I know what's coming. I know that at least once a decade, for the past seven decades, Hawthorn has tasted premiership success. The mighty Hawks reign supreme as the most dependable club in the history of elite Australian Rules Football. So yeah, that bodes well. As a bonus, just enough time has passed since the threeppeat for opposition fans to relax, secure in the belief the brown-and-gold-tinged nightmare is finally over. But Hawthorn tends to be a bit like the T-1000 - before long, it simply regenerates and brutalises the competition all over again.

And that brings us to 2020 - a new decade, and a chance for history to repeat itself. In this guide, Tizz and I examine every player on the list and where they fit into Hawthorn's quest for that next piece of silverware. To quote genius coach Alastair Clarkson, we hope you find it "really pleasing". Don't forget to check out the podcast!







# #1 HARRY MORRISON

**DOB** 12-11-1998 **Height** 180 cm **Weight** 79 kg **Debut** 2017  
**Games** 2019: 9, Career: 31  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 5



Link-up talent



Difficult 2019

## TIZZ SAYS...

We all remember *that* debut in Luke Hodge's final game for the club, in which Morrison gathered 21 disposals and proved pivotal to the Hawks attack. Great expectations followed his 21 games in 2018, as Morrison showed off his ability to control surges forward, by taking marks in space, and linking with targets. However, 2019 was filled with frustration for Harry, as Wingard usurped his role, and he lost his place in the side early in the season. Ultimately, he would only manage nine appearances in the senior side, and a broken jaw sustained while playing for Box Hill ended his year early. So what does 2020 hold for young Harry? Hoping to bounce back from a tough year, he'll be looking to cement a spot on the half-back line this season. He has stiff competition but has been front and centre in the frame in both Marsh games. Harry has class aplenty and a deep love for the club, and I'm confident he can turn things around. His strong pre-season will help. (and perhaps some longer, blonder locks.)

# #2 MITCH LEWIS

**DOB** 14-10-1998 **Height** 198 cm **Weight** 92 kg **Debut** 2018  
**Games** 2019: 12, Career: 14  
**Goals** 2019: 20, Career: 20



Genuine marking forward





Inexperience, shoulder/ankle

## NICK SAYS...

Hawthorn made the #SwitchToMitch official in the off-season, with Lewis inheriting Jarryd Roughead's number. It was a symbolic gesture, certainly, and every bit earned. Having been a quiet contributor in the first half of 2019, a seemingly rejuvenated Lewis made his move against the Pies in Round Sixteen. In the month that followed, he starred, presenting as a genuine threat up forward, earning a Rising Star nomination for his efforts. Sadly, Lewis would miss the remainder of the season with a shoulder complaint, one that would ultimately require surgery. Having been sidelined for four months, the obvious query around Lewis concerns not his ability, but his body. He's an exceptional contested mark - it would be a big blow to see that side of his game diminished. Of course, it helps that the monster among men, big Jon Patton, will be standing alongside Lewis. That ought to make some defenders sweat. I expect the mere presence of Patton will afford Lewis some freedom. Combined with his ability, I predict Lewis will wear Roughy's #2 well.





# #3 TOM MITCHELL

**DOB** 31-05-1993 **Height** 182 cm **Weight** 84 kg **Debut** 2013  Disposal king  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 111  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 61  Returning from injury

## TIZZ SAYS...

We was robbed! Tom Mitchell went down in January 2019 with a broken leg and robbed us of an exceptional player - in fact, the best in the comp, as the reigning Brownlow Medallist. We were also robbed of the tantalising Mitchell-coaching-Mitchell-playing dynamo. Well, giddy-up - he's back! The man with three of the nine 50+ disposal games ever recorded is raring to rejoin a midfield that struggled early then bloomed without him. Tom will easily force his way back into the line-up, but it won't be like two years ago, when it seemed Tommy was the Hawks midfield. Most improved around him will be James Worpel, Jaeger O'Meara, and the mercurial Chad Wingard. Given the seriousness of his injury, Tom will take time to peak, but we all know peak-Mitchell is worth the wait. I'm excited that the club finally gets to dig up those January 2019 plans to have him dominate from the centre bounce. Meanwhile, his return also means so much for our rotations. Expect his scoring involvements to soar in 2020!

# #4 JARMAN IMPEY



**DOB** 9-7-1995 **Height** 178 cm **Weight** 82 kg **Debut** 2014  Intercepting weapon  
**Games** 2019: 17, Career: 116  
**Goals** 2019: 7, Career Total: 51  Knee rehab

## NICK SAYS...

Anyone else still a little bit annoyed with Tom Atkins? Without his hands in Impey's back, the whole sorry ACL-rupturing incident might have been avoided. Alas, we will never know. with Jarman Impey becoming one of the hard luck stories of Hawthorn's 2019 campaign. Prior to his injury, Impey was enjoying a career-best season, averaging 16.5 disposals and 5.6 intercepts. Often billed as a utility, Impey electrified as a handy defender, finding his groove as the season wore on. His dash, intensity and intercept marking were impressive. Despite missing the last five games of the season, Impey was recognised by Hawthorn as Most Consistent Player at the PCM, which says everything you need to know. So what's in store for Impey this year? I would implore the club to be as patient as possible with his rehabilitation, partly because I think they can afford to take the time to get him right. On paper, our defensive cohort is strong enough to cover for him. Practice patience, and Jarman Impey might just be one hell of an ace up Hawthorn's sleeve come September.





# #5 JAMES WORPEL

**DOB** 24-01-1999 **Height** 185 cm **Weight** 85 kg **Debut** 2018  Break-out 2019  
**Games** 2019: 33, Career: 22  
**Goals** 2019: 9, Career Total: 14  Post-PCM blues?

## TIZZ SAYS...

Opportunity taken! In 2019, James Worpel went from looking fairly comfortable at AFL level to making his opponents decidedly uncomfortable. What a season. A PCM in the cabinet by the end of just his second season, the 21-year-old certainly earned it, having bullocked his way to average 6.3 clearances, 12 contested possessions, and 9 goals for the year - and there were some critical ones, too. Sam Mitchell received great praise for the management of Worpels' development under the duress of Tom Mitchell's absence. Now the band's back together, and the Mitchell-O'Meara-Worpel combo will surely have Hawks fans salivating. Of course, Worpel will likely have to change to his role in 2020. I'm looking forward to Worpel being forward more this season and being the goal-scoring midfielder Clarko covets. Meanwhile, the promise of both he and O'Meara unchained to stream out of the centre square will be warmly welcomed by Patton and Lewis. We've long been big fans of Worpel on the pod and we're very excited to see what he brings this season.

# #6 JAMES SICILY

**DOB** 06-01-1995 **Height** 186 cm **Weight** 87 kg **Debut** 2015  Intercept king, AA TBA  
**Games** 2019: 22, Career: 82  
**Goals** 2019: 3, Career: 56  Undisciplined

## NICK SAYS...

Ah, James Sicily. I'm a big fan. Sicily truly is Hawthorn's very own Happy Gilmore - a hothead with tremendous talent. The uneducated footy fan simply hates him for his undisciplined side. Those that pay slightly more attention tend to rate Sicily as a peel-off defender, with little more in his arsenal. In reality, there's a case to be made for Sicily being one of the best defenders in the comp. It's little wonder he pushed for All-Australian selection - elite in disposals, metres gained, marks and intercept possessions. Not only that, he's ranked #1 in the comp in defensive one-on-one contests. Beyond these statistics, I believe Sicily is our most important asset down back. If we're a genuine contender this year, it will be owed in part to Sicily's continued excellence. My real hope for this season, though, is that he finally gets that low-five from Joe Daniher. He deserved it - Joe's just a bad sport. Speaking of, is there a more exquisite joy than Sicily drilling a goal from the centre square? More of that please. Just don't play him forward. It worked once, but this works way better.





## #7 BEN MCEVOY

**DOB** 11-07-1989 **Height** 200 cm **Weight** 102 kg **Debut** 2018



#1 ruckman

**Games** 2019: 19, Career: 206

**Goals** 2019: 8, Career Total: 84



Turns 31 this year

### TIZZ SAYS...

And now, a lesson for us all to answer those late night calls. It's 3am, somewhere in Cambodia - Big Boy, selected by St.Kilda at pick nine years earlier, takes a call and discovers he's joining the premiers in 2014. Back-to-back flags later, and he's hailed as one of the most consistent competitors on the list. At 30 years old, he started 2019 in great form, averaging 15 disposals, 30 hitouts, and 3.4 contested marks - which we were desperate for - over the first five rounds. Although he had less impact on the scoreboard, McEvoy remained a threat forward, kicking 8.2. It's this accuracy that forces opponents to work hard and follow him into attack. For something completely different, Clarkson tried McEvoy at half-back against the Suns, and again in Perth the following week with great success. In fact, the stirring win effectively put the Eagles' back-to-back ambitions in the too hard basket. But was it a move just aimed to retain Ceglar? Or will we see it more of it in 2020? While McEvoy excels under pressure, I hope he has an easier role. If you're anything like me, you're tapping your fingers crossed that both Big Boy and Ceglar stay fit.

## #8 SAM FROST

**DOB** 28-08-1993 **Height** 194cm **Weight** 93kg **Debut** 2012



Versatility, speed

**Games** 2019: 22, Career: 91

**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 8





Decision making

### NICK SAYS...

Honestly, a large part of me wishes Hawthorn had staged a recruiting coup for the ages, luring actress Sam Frost away from Summer Bay. Talk about a Home and Away season! Jokes aside, I wouldn't mind it. At least I know how I feel about that Sam Frost, as opposed to the perennial whipping boy maligned by many Dees fans for years. Is it fair that he cops quite so much criticism? It's worth noting that in a nightmare season for Melbourne, Frost was at least one player that showed he cared to be out there. It was enough to earn the attention of the Hawks, who now have a task ahead of them - getting the best out of Frost and successfully integrating him into a rock-solid defensive system. We're relying on Alastair Clarkson and co. to work their magic and eradicate some of the more maddening elements of 'Frostball', such as questionable decision making. If they get it right, we could have ourselves another genuine weapon, and one with pace - something our backline could use. I see what Hawthorn have in mind here - fingers crossed?



# #9 SHAUN BUGROYNE

**DOB** 21-10-1982 **Height** 186 cm **Weight** 89 kg **Debut** 2002  He's Shaun Burgoyne  
**Games** 2019: 18, Career: 376  
**Goals** 2019: 7, Career Total: 290  He's pretty old

## TIZZ SAYS...

The importance of this man on-field isn't overstated, but I'd like to talk about how his arrival at Hawthorn has revolutionised HFC recruiting and in-season approaches to trade targets. Silk stands as the example that bought O'Meara, Scully, and this year, Patton to Hawthorn. He's also the leading argument that allowed so much money to be ploughed into the club's medical facilities, underlining the importance for the upcoming Kennedy Centre to be at the cutting edge of sports science. His perseverance, durability and deserved success speaks to all footballers. He is held in the highest regard. No wonder GCS tried to poach him. I'm so glad he stayed. Where will Clarko use Burgoyne in 2020? After a hamstring injury in the early rounds of 2019 threatened to reduce his impact, he went on to approach his best form late in the season, when the team was flying. Three goals in Perth and achieving the Indigenous games record were the chief highlights of Silk's year, in which he ran at 78% efficiency at an average of 16 disposals, across 18 games. Could we see him forward?

# #10 JAEGER O'MEARA

**DOB** 23-02-1994 **Height** 183 cm **Weight** 82 kg **Debut** 2013  Third-placed in PCM '19  
**Games** 2019: 21, Career: 92  
**Goals** 2019: 8, Career Total: 52  Knee worries, needs support

## NICK SAYS...

Anyone else feel like we haven't seen the best of Jaeger just yet? That's not intended to be a knock on O'Meara, far from it - it's simply cause for Hawks fans to get excited. In his three seasons with the club, O'Meara has to plenty to overcome each year, between his troublesome knees and a Mitchell-less 2019 campaign. Make no mistake, without the reigning Brownlow Medallist running around beside him O'Meara became a marked man in the eye of opposition clubs. Of course, it wasn't all bad - with so much focus afforded to Jaeger, Worpel was entirely underestimated and announced himself to the competition. Secondly, it's impressive that, nevertheless, opposition clubs could only do so much to curb Jaeger's influence. He averaged 25.9 touches in 2019, and when he didn't have the footy, he worked hard to get it back, averaging 5.9 tackles. A commendable effort, and it was recognised when O'Meara placed third in the 2019 PCM votes. Now with Mitchell on his way back, and Worpel looking promising, could 2020 be O'Meara's career-best season?





# #11 CONOR NASH

**DOB** 28-07-1998 **Height** 197 cm **Weight** 93 kg **Debut** 2018  
**Games** 2019: 14, Career: 19  
**Goals** 2019: 9, Career Total: 11



Versatile



Still green

## TIZZ SAYS...

Some say the space between the tram tracks on Conor Nash's back serve to remind him of where the ball needs to go. With huge sporting talent contained in an intimidating physique, Conor Nash has been given the time his potential demands, and I'm expecting our patience to reap rewards in 2020. After a mediocre first few rounds to kick off 2019, Nash was dropped to Box Hill. Pleasingly, he responded well, returning to kick seven goals from his next nine senior appearances. This purple patch included his best performances against Brisbane in Tassie, and West Coast in Perth. He's still learning a game he didn't grow up with, but it seems to me that the penny may have dropped in the loss to the Lions. With Lewis and Patton roaming up forward, and Tim O'Brien offering yet another tall target, Conor Nash will need to take his chances this season. Fortunately for the Irishman, he offers something those other names don't, and that's the ability to play smaller than his stature would suggest. We don't call him Tall Poppy for nothing. A point of difference might be key to his 2020.

# #12 JAMES FRAWLEY

**DOB** 20-09-1988 **Height** 193 cm **Weight** 96 kg **Debut** 2007  
**Games** 2019: 18, Career: 225  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 24



One-on-one specialist



Injury prone

## NICK SAYS...

Frawley's 2019 felt like one big season-long reminder that, yeah, he's pretty bloody good. His performance in Round 15 at the MCG spelled it out perfectly, with history repeating in the sweetest way possible. Having taken Josh Kennedy to school in the 2015 Grand Final, class was again in session, Frawley keeping the Eagles star goalless for just the second time in his past 104 games. Equally as pleasing, Frawley then went on to dominate Tom Hawkins in a great win over Geelong, earning AFLCA votes for his efforts. Clearly Frawley's still got it. He's our go-to guy when it comes to nullifying monster forwards. However, given his age and injury prone body, it's questionable how much footy he actually has left. Often when the end comes, it comes quickly. With that in mind, Hawthorn made the right call in offering just a single-year extension. They have their policy for players over 30, sure, but with Frawley it makes sense. We need to look to the future, but we're not ready to be without him either. Ideally, he's available for as long as possible, buying our young defenders time to develop.



## #13 CONOR GLASS

**DOB** 28-09-1997 **Height** 189 cm **Weight** 84 kg **Debut** 20

**Games** 2019: 7, Career: 17

**Goals** 2019: 1, Career Total: 1



Utility



Panicky under pressure

### TIZZ SAYS...

Conor added seven more games to his tally last year and had an extraordinary range of roles, from tagging, to lining up as a half-back flanker, even taking up a forward-defensive post at some points. Notably, he cracked 20 disposals for the first time against Sydney playing off the half-back line. Meanwhile, in another first, Glass also opened his goal-kicking account against Essendon in Round 13. Without consistency of selection, though, it's difficult to pin down where Glass is best suited, and what he is capable of becoming. He's eager to learn and eager to impact his opponent, but his ability with the ball is still suspect, particularly when the heat is on. Ironically, manic pressure is his natural talent, so I can see his value, especially if he can start to really make his opponents pay. I expect he begins 2020 in the VFL until he finds form in his disposal. He's a player made for the modern frantic game style - the question is, can he learn to cool it in the heat of the game? Time will tell. 2020 looms as a really important year for Conor Glass.

## #14 JACK SCRIMSHAW

**DOB** 04-09-1998 **Height** 193 cm **Weight** 88 kg **Debut** 2017

**Games** 2019: 10, Career: 14

**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0



Birchall v2.0



Inexperience



### NICK SAYS...

Hawthorn's 2018 recruiting haul consisted of Tom Scully, Chad Wingard, and Jack Scrimshaw. Hands up if you thought young Jack would prove every bit as exciting as his fellow recruits? Hands down, you bunch of fibbers! Scrimshaw was truly the surprise packet of the 2019 season, slotting into Hawthorn's defence seamlessly. We were instantly delighted by his natural flair for the game, his aerial and rebounding work, and how closely he appeared to emulate our-time premiership Hawk Grant Birchall. We refer to him as Birchall v2.0, and I don't think we're the only ones. As Hawthorn's fortunes fluctuated, an erratic win-loss record forming, Scrimshaw was a neat constant to cling onto. Unfortunately, an injury much worse than initially forecast saw Scrimshaw miss most of the season, spoiling his fun and ours - that is, until re-announcing himself with a freakish mark, shoring up a famous win in the west. Needless to say, I'm super-excited for Scrimshaw's 2020. Fit and firing, full of confidence, slotting into stronger, more experienced backline - what's not to like here? Huge year ahead.





# #15 BLAKE HARDWICK

**DOB** 05-02-1997 **Height** 181 cm **Weight** 79 kg **Debut** 2016  Efficiency king  
**Games** 2019: 22, Career: 66  
**Goals** 2019: 2, Career Total: 5  Lack of speed

## TIZZ SAYS...

When Graham Wright drafts a forward, Clarko sees an elite back! The ever-dependable Blake Hardwick was a defensive intercept marking savant in 2018. While that was less the case in season 2019, he managed to double his rebound 50s. Playing all 22 games, he evolved into that unheralded defensive presence that every Hawker loves. Hardwick did his best work under lights against Collingwood, where he was physical and unerring in the contest all night, and as a bonus, he slotted his first goal for the year. It was this goal that seemed to spark something in Clarko, who promptly experimented with playing Hardwick forward on and off for the rest of the year. It whets the appetite, doesn't it? We'll have to wait though, with an untimely pec injury derailing Blake's season. Covering for his absence will be a bit of a project in the early stages of the season, until he's right to reclaim his spot in our best 22.

# #16 ISAAC SMITH

**DOB** 30-12-1988 **Height** 188 cm **Weight** 83 kg **Debut** 2011  Quick, experienced wingman  
**Games** 2019: 19, Career: 200  
**Goals** 2019: 9, Career Total: 160  Contract speculation

## NICK SAYS...

Securing Isaac Smith's signature should be a top priority in 2020 for a number of reasons. Firstly, Smith is still a valuable contributor and there's been no major indication thus far that he's slowing down, so to speak. He remains a top-quality player. Secondly, though we have promising youngsters. which of them could inherit Smith's role? Presently, there's no back-up ready and able. Thirdly, contract speculation invites extra pressure. The footy media will salivate, and spin stories at every opportunity. If you think that doesn't have a negative impact on players, you've forgotten that they're only human. Finally, the reason to re-sign Smith as soon as possible is one that became plainly evident in the second half of Hawthorn's 2019 campaign, as the team tried to break into the eight - Smith is the heart and soul of this current side. From the outside looking in, Isaac Smith's smiley demeanour and fun-loving attitude seems to be such a spirit-lifter for the boys. Closely examine our highlights and you'll see he radiates positivity. He's a guy that Hawthorn has to retain, not just for his talents, but for his impact upon the club's culture.



## #17 DANIEL HOWE

**DOB** 04-12-1995 **Height** 191 cm **Weight** 86 kg **Debut** 2015  
**Games** 2019: 12, Career: 62  
**Goals** 2019: 1, Career Total: 11



Quality stopper



Decision making

### TIZZ SAYS...

Howe was made to earn his spot, beginning the year at Box Hill after labouring through pre-season with a hip injury. He was dropped after a frustrating performance against Melbourne in Round 7, but returned to the side against the Eagles in Round 15 playing every remaining game bar one. His best performance was perhaps Round 18 against the ladder-leading Cats, in which he was deployed on the half-back flank, plucking some nice intercept marks and notching up 23 disposals. His defensive impact in the midfield was important in keeping the Cats from running away from the contest. It was a well-earned four-goal victory and a highlight of what was rollercoaster year for the club. Now, with 62 games under his belt, Howe should become a dependable cog in the Hawks midfield. At 191cm, he has the presence to nullify and intercept. If he can keep cool under pressure, take the right options, and build on his already-strong defensive game, Howe will be a vital player, and one that oppositions will seek to avoid on their forward transitions.

## #18 JONATHON CEGLAR

**DOB** 14-02-1991 **Height** 204 cm **Weight** 102 kg **Debut** 2011  
**Games** 2019: 15, Career: 76  
**Goals** 2019: 5, Career Total: 40



Forward cameos



#1 ruck potential?

### NICK SAYS...

Ceglar signed a three-year deal in September, ensuring he's with the Hawks for the long term. Good thing, too - given Pittonet's departure, Reeves' being far from ready for senior footy, and McEvoy approaching 31 years of age, Ceglar suddenly seems vital. So what's the plan for the big man, anyway? Is he meant to be the heir to McEvoy's throne, a #1 ruck in waiting? If I had to guess, I'd say Hawthorn were more toying with this notion, rather than Big Boy in our back half, in the latter stages of our 2019 campaign. Early indications suggest Ceglar might be up to the task, stringing together some promising performances. Regarding 2020, I expect the experiment will continue, and we'll see very quickly whether it's meant to be. I feel like we know what Hawthorn think by the three-year deal alone. They'll be hoping like hell they've put their faith in the right player. The club never wanted to lose Pittonet, and his departure will hurt worse if Ceglar, now the main hope, proves unsuitable to follow Ben McEvoy. No pressure or anything. Our ruck situation is intriguing, and a little concerning.





## #19 JACK GUNSTON

**DOB** 16-10-1991 **Height** 193 cm **Weight** 87 kg **Debut** 2010

**Games** 2019: 20, Career: 192

**Goals** 2019: 26, Career Total: 367

⬢ Great versatility

... Must regain mojo re: accuracy

### TIZZ SAYS...

Elevated to the vice-captaincy, Jack Gunston played 20 games and led by example. At times he threatened to take games by the scruff of the neck, but his finishing let him down, and I have no doubt that was due to the ground he was asked to cover all year. Down back, up forward - Gunston seemed to be the everywhere man. Even with this heavy work load as the Hawks searched for the right option going forward in the absence of Roughead, he rated 20th in the comp for goal assists while scoring 26.21 himself. The day it all clicked was a thing of beauty, as the Hawks beat the so-called "Port Power" by 5 goals in Tassie, Gunston booting 6 straight. It was a critical win, the club holding a 5-5 record at Round 10. His leadership will be vital to the Hawks in 2020 with the new additions and new tactics in the forward line. I'm looking forward to lots of pointing and yelling from Jack in 2020 as he looks to double his scoreboard impact. With Patton worrying defenders, and Lewis demanding accountability, Gunston may well bob up to remind everyone how lethal he can be.

## #20 CHAD WINGARD

**DOB** 29-07-1993 **Height** 183 cm **Weight** 85 kg **Debut** 2012

**Games** 2019: 14, Career: 161

**Goals** 2019: 12, Career Total: 244

⬢ X-factor

... Hot and cold

### NICK SAYS...

Wingard's first year with the Hawks threatened to be underwhelming. Mere glimpses of his brilliance proved frustrating for impatient fans, who feared we might have made a mistake at the trade table. While understandable, I would hope his second half of the season settled some anxieties. When Wingard got going, playing his part in a strong month or two of footy, he was as exciting as any Hawk out there. And now, heading into 2020, we have The Chad with a full pre-season - a tantalising prospect indeed. I'm here for it. The silky skills, the swagger, the X-factor - I want it all. Right from the moment he was on the club's radar, I imagined Wingard as the danger forward to make post-Rioli footy watchable, sneaking goals and terrorising opposition defenders. As we've seen though, he can be plugged into different roles and positions. The club need only deploy him where required and good things will happen. Last year, I assured listeners of the pod that the best is yet to come with Wingard. My tip now? At full fitness, with nothing in his way, there's one hell of a highlight reel coming this year.



## #21 TOM SCULLY

**DOB** 15-05-1991 **Height** 181 cm **Weight** 79 kg **Debut** 2010  
**Games** 2019: 21, Career: 173  
**Goals** 2019: 12, Career Total: 85

✚ Running machine  
... Injury history

### TIZZ SAYS...

Let's take a closer look at what we have with Tom Scully. The elite endurance isn't back. The disposal accuracy isn't back. The speed isn't back. But I can tell you now, it will be. Boasting great consistency, averaging 18 disposals, slotting 12 goals, and improving his contested numbers along the way, Scully gave a preview of things to come. He really whet the appetite for an overlapping wingman with scoreboard impact, the poise, and footy smarts of a pick one. He announced his arrival in Round 4 against the Saints with 2 goals and 5 inside 50s, collecting 26 disposals. We can expect Scully's run and carry to be one of the highlights of 2020. With a license to use his jets and send the ball long to tall targets Mitch Lewis and Jon Patton, his contribution to Hawthorn's campaign should be huge. And all this promise from a player many feared would not even be available until who knows when. That's the only real concern over Scully - his injury history, and whether those issues can remain purely a thing of the past. So far, so good. Onward!

## #22 LUKE BREUST

**DOB** 11-11-1990 **Height** 184 cm **Weight** 84 kg **Debut** 2011  
**Games** 2019: 22, Career: 207  
**Goals** 2019: 34, Career Total: 392

✚ Leading goalkicker 2019  
... Worked out by opposition?



### NICK SAYS...

The moment Breust and Gunston scored All-Australian nods in 2018, I was concerned. Why? Well, they were marked men. Heading into the next campaign, Hawthorn's forward line had not really evolved from the year before. It was actually very suspect. With Roughy staring down retirement, Lewis with little experience at the level, and Wingard's fitness issues, so much responsibility for scoreboard impact was once again heaped on Breust and Gunston. Of course, opposition teams knew that. The equation was simple: clamp down on either one, and you go a long way to beating Hawthorn. Full credit to Breust, he gave as much as he could. He finished the season as the club's leading goalkicker... and did so recording the lowest average goals per game of his career. Yes, that includes his debut year. In summary? Breust needs a few more buddies to help out up forward. Fortunately, that seems to be on the cards. Lewis looks very promising, while Patton will provide a second marking target. With those two on the park, Breust instantly becomes a wildcard weapon again, relieved as Hawthorn's go-to guy. This year, he goes back to being a silky, opportunistic goalsneak.







# #23 TIM O'BRIEN

**DOB** 28-03-1994 **Height** 193 cm **Weight** 88 kg **Debut** 2014  Quality swingman  
**Games** 2019: 16, Career: 62  
**Goals** 2019: 12, Career Total: 49  Glimpses?

## TIZZ SAYS...

It was really pleasing to see Timmy bounce back from a frustrating 2018 to produce his best footy yet. He forced his way into the line up at Round 6, playing 11 games in defence, before Clarko shifted him forward once more. From there, TOB really found his groove. There was that handy cameo against the Cats (3.1), and later, a dominant display in the west, Timmy clipping the Eagles' wings with four goals straight. Boasting the flexibility of a swingman, as well as the tank to take some ruck time, O'Brien is slowly building a skill-set that'll make him a great chess piece for Clarko - both on game day, and in the way that he will force opponents' hands at the selection table. Quite clearly he's a confidence player, and I think there's opportunity for TOB to build himself up, taking the 3rd most able defender in attack, and being the 3rd man up in defence. Overall, this should be an interesting year for O'Brien - an exciting one, even. He's been a slow burn, but it's starting to come together. Here's hoping he can pick up right where he left off in 2019.

# #24 BEN STRATTON



**DOB** 01-03-1989 **Height** 189 cm **Weight** 88 kg **Debut** 2010  Experienced defender  
**Games** 2019: 19, Career: 188  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 1  Reduced impact

## NICK SAYS...

If you had serious concerns around Ben Stratton's appointment as captain heading into the 2019 home and away season, it's unlikely you've been swayed too much. Overall, it was a curious year for the club's newest captain, and a frustrating for supporters that had come to expect more. The whole pinching saga seemed to be the least of Hawks fans' worries, as nostalgia for a more impactful Stratton set in. Realistically, Stratton was never in our best nor in our worst performed for much of the season, but his newly-bestowed title invited scrutiny. Had the captaincy affected his performance? It certainly seemed that way to some, though it could be argued that a shift in Stratton's role played a part in that. If you felt he was quiet, you weren't so crazy for thinking so - Stratton's numbers were down from 2018 in almost every stats category. And yet I find myself advocating for patience. Ben Stratton has been captain a single year, and a year in which we only just missed finals at that. 2020 could yet reveal the wisdom of his appointment. Finishing top ten in the PCM, the club appears satisfied with Stratts - perhaps we can be, too.





# #25 JONATHON PATTON

**DOB** 20-05-1993 **Height** 198 cm **Weight** 101 kg **Debut** 2012  Monster forward target  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 89  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 130  Injury history

## TIZZ SAYS...

He's here! The monster among men! The power forward I've linked our recruiters to for years has finally arrived, and he's a massive, *massive* inclusion. Forget the idea he'll play ruck - there's next to no chance of that happening, especially when his ruck stats justify the risk. Instead, expect him to make opposition defenders sweat as a forward target you simply can't afford to ignore. Incidentally, Patton is the second pick one making the journey from GWS to the Hawks in 12 months, and like Scully, he has a noted injury history hanging over him. Fortunately, Patton put himself in cotton wool for this opportunity, one he's obviously been looking forward to for a while. He has a deep love for Hawthorn, a love that began as a youngster in Rowville. That being said, he's in his element now. Let's hope all his efforts are finally rewarded. Realistically, Patton could be the difference in many games next year, through his mere presence, his goalscoring accuracy, not to mention the greatest driver of all - the hunger for a flag, the desire to make brown and gold confetti angels on the MCG.

# #26 LIAM SHIELS

**DOB** 29-04-1991 **Height** 183 cm **Weight** 84 kg **Debut** 2009  Dependable, tackling  
**Games** 2019: 19, Career: 205  
**Goals** 2019: 10, Career Total: 75  Frees against



## NICK SAYS...

As dependable a contributor as they come, Liam Shiels is the kind of player Hawks fans never need second guess. Week after week, he just shows up and gets it done. We've seen a lot of flashy players over the past decade, but Shiels' game is one that's entirely stripped of glitz. There's not a hint of razzle-dazzle in the way he goes about it. Instead, Liam Shiels is a workmanlike midfielder, as if programmed by Clarkson to play his role to perfection. And yet, there's danger in underestimating Shiels, too. On his day, he can help turn a game. Fittingly, his best performance last year came in his 200th game, collecting 29 disposals, eight tackles and two goals in a match-winning effort against Geelong. Heading into 2020, Shiels helps make-up Hawthorn's whack-a-mole midfield, and you better believe if opposition clubs put too much time into his teammates, he'll bob up and have an impact. Either that, or he'll lock his opponent down. Defensive pressure has long been part of Shiels' expertise, and he heaped it on again in 2019, averaging 6.58 tackles a game (ranked 7th comp-wide). We rate Liam Shiels, even if sections of the footy media still don't.






# #27 MICHAEL HARTLEY

**DOB** 07-06-1993 **Height** 198 cm **Weight** 104 kg **Debut** 2016  Big-bodied defender  
**Games** 2019: 3, Career: 44  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 1  Purely a depth player?

## TIZZ SAYS...

Moneyball anyone? It's easy to imagine rabid Essendon fans hating on Michael Hartley for leaving Windy Hill. After all, it was a mercenary style move for the big man, Hartley explicitly stating he's at the Hawks for the money. He's putting his family first. Ironically, Hawthorn will more than likely be putting him in the seconds. I can see his value to the list - note *list*, not side. Hawthorn needed to shore up defensive stocks, and it will be good to have Hartley on hand should anything go awry. It's an 'in case of emergency' pick up. At the Bombers, he showed some ability to fill in the hole left by Hurley from time to time, but realistically, he never blanketed an opponent. Maybe having the more defensive mindset of the Hawks around him will see him reach his best, but for now, all I'm seeing is a newer, Instagrammable Danny Jacobs. You can't question Hartleys' effort but he doesn't often get reward. I'm hopeful the 26-year-old can take this chance to force his way into a defensive unit that needs the body presence like him to nullify targets.

# #28 PAUL PUOPOLO



**DOB** 02-11-1987 **Height** 173 cm **Weight** 78 kg **Debut** 2011  Intensity, pressure  
**Games** 2019: 22, Career: 190  
**Goals** 2019: 10, Career Total: 181  Reduced scoreboard impact

## NICK SAYS...

Going on age alone, you'd think the tackling machine might be in the twilight of his career. His stats tell a different story, though, suggesting he remains a key contributor in ways we've long appreciated. Though Puopolo's scoreboard impact has lessened, his intensity at the contest was again a key feature of his game in 2019. Puopolo finished the season ranked fourth for tackles inside 50 per game. So, the work rate's still there. However, Puopolo's defensive pressure is a luxury Hawthorn won't have forever. Herein lies a key challenge for the club this season: there needs to be a well-executed changing of the guard. Hanrahan is the current front-runner, but there should be a few guys gunning for the role. It'll all work itself out as the year unfolds. In the meantime, at this point, there's iron clad guarantees around we can expect from Puopolo. Whether he's having a lively or quiet game, there's never any doubt as to Poppy's fighting spirit. That makes him special. Poppy is set to reach 200 games this year - Mark of the Year contender for old time's sake?





# #29 CHANGKUOTH JIATH

**DOB** 13-06-1999 **Height** 185 cm **Weight** 74 kg **Debut** 2019  Speed, intensity  
**Games** 2019: 2, Career: 2  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0  Inexperience

## TIZZ SAYS...

CJ started attracting the eye at Box Hill early in the year - some big marks, his closing speed, his ability to create space, and his overall physicality all stood out. Eventually he improved his positioning in the contest and starting identifying the best option moving forward, and was rightly rewarded with a debut against GWS. How surreal for CJ, given his story, that he should find himself competing on such a snowy evening! Pleasingly, he looked like he belonged at the level, slotting into a defensive role that was in ways Impey-esque, finishing with 11 disposals. It felt like a game that will linger long in the memories of Hawks fans, and it's great that CJ got to make his mark as part of that. So where to from here? There's a lot to like, it's just a matter of making the most of his opportunities, whenever they come his way, and whatever the coaches happen to ask of him going forward - which, right now, is open to debate. Is CJ locked into a defensive role? Could he offer some X-factor up forward? Could he serve as a link-up weapon on the wing? In any case, he could be sensational.

# #30 WILL DAY

**DOB** 05-06-2001 **Height** 189 cm **Weight** 76 kg **Debut** TBA  Cool, skillful under pressure  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0  Very light build

## NICK SAYS...

Kudos to Hawthorn for keeping a lid on their interest in Will Day, the grandson of 1971 Premiership player, Robert Day. Only Cal Twomey had an inkling the club would select the skillful South Australian at pick 13, and the murmurs only really began to pick up a couple of days out from the draft. Needless to say, with most so-called experts in the dark, most Hawthorn supporters were equally as surprised. And then, as fans began to conduct their own research, the excitement set in. Sure, at just 76kg, there's nothing of Day, but that makes his unique ability to negotiate tricky, high-pressure moments all the more impressive. Hawthorn has moved to describe Will as "a skilful rebounding defender who boasts all-round athleticism," and frankly, that sums it up pretty well. Elite disposal, combined with a good footy IQ hold Day in good stead going forward. It's easy to pinpoint why the Hawks took him ASAP. That being said, can we expect a 2020 debut? I'd suggest probably not. He'd look a boy amongst men at the moment, and though he's played with and against bigger bodies, I'd like to see the club give him time to develop and add bulk to his frame.





## #31 RICKY HENDERSON

**DOB** 11-09-1988 **Height** 188 cm **Weight** 89 kg **Debut** 2010  
**Games** 2019: 22, Career: 152  
**Goals** 2019: 12, Career Total: 79

⬢ Career-best form  
... Ageing star

### TIZZ SAYS...

Ricky Henderson did it all in 2019 - he ran off half-back, he took contested marks, he took intercept marks, he ran the wing, he hit up targets in the forward 50, he took marks in the forward 50, he ran through the 50 and kicked true. I trust that took you through a mental highlight reel of what Hendo found in himself this year. Because that was his best - his career best and at 31 years old - we could sure do with more of this! He sets a great example for our entire list! Hendo stood up as Smith struggled with form, and gave Scully time to rebuild his endurance. Against Port Power, he registered 10 forward 50 entries, and 37 touches. Only a minor dip in form prevented him from nabbing the PCM, as well as an All-Australian blazer. I'm looking forward to Ricky displaying his best again in 2020 as pressure comes from Box Hill for his spot - as well it should, too. Not every player is evergreen, Burgoyne being the exception to the rule. Hendo is 31, and we'll need to find an alternative soon enough. It's gonna take an effort to unseat Ricky, though. What a star.

## #32 FINN MAGINNESS

**DOB** 23-02-2001 **Height** 187 cm **Weight** 80 kg **Debut** TBA  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0



⬢ Big-bodied midfield bull  
... Disposal could improve

### NICK SAYS...

It couldn't have gone any other way, could it? Finn Maginness was always going to end up at Hawthorn. The opportunity to represent the brown and gold is a dream come true for Maginness, a lifelong Hawk supporter following in the footsteps of his father Scott, a two-time premiership player for the club. In fact, according to Finn, one of his fondest footy memories is watching the Hawks win the 2008 flag with his old man. Now if that alone hasn't won you over, I don't know what will. Actually, yes I do: turns out he's bloody good, too. Maginness is coming off a huge year, having toiled as relentless, big-bodied extractor - a Josh-Kennedy-esque midfielder with a terrific work rate and a love for the physicality of the game. His recent numbers playing for the Sandringham Dragons certainly impress, Finn averaging 20.8 disposals, 5.4 tackles and almost a goal per game. Little wonder then that he shot up in calculations ahead of the draft. It's going to be great to see how Finn develops from here, and I dare say he's a sneaky chance to debut in 2020, looking ready to go.





# #33 MATHEW WALKER

**DOB** 14-02-2000 **Height** 188 cm **Weight** 84 kg **Debut** TBA  Highlight machine  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0  Still green, defensive game

## TIZZ SAYS...

When Hawks fans contemplate life after Puopolo, they should rest assured that Mat Walker may be the man to carry the baton, boasting all the attributes of an electric forward. Throughout 2019, Box Hill was abuzz whenever Walker went near the ball. The general forward played 15 games, scoring 23 goals and posting average of 14 possessions. Not big numbers, but what he brings is a mercurial presence in front of goal that can't be taught, making defenders very nervous. The club will demand better conditioning and more effort as far as his defensive pressure in the forward 50 is concerned, but as hinted at, a senior spot beckons for a forward that can leap above the pack, mark and bicycle kick goals while under pressure in the goal square. Yep, he's done all of those things and more already. Walker is perhaps another year away from senior selection but he's conditioning well and we should see him take on more responsibility at Box Hill and snaffle a couple of bags as he pushes for seniors. Definitely one to watch.

# #34 JACOB KOSCHITZKE

**DOB** 11-07-2000 **Height** 196 cm **Weight** 94 kg **Debut** TBA  Athleticism, handy utility  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0  Shoulder injury

## NICK SAYS...

Touted as an excellent mark, and a big body more than capable in one-on-one contests, the main question around Koschitzke is where he slots into the side long-term. An answer may emerge soon, with Box Hill showing a willness to experiment with Koschitzke's position. Working through numerous niggling injuries over the course of 2019, Koschitzke played both forward and back over 13 appearances for Box Hill. He was good for a few goals, demonstrating he might be able to make strides as a target, but in my opinion, the Hawks need to concentrate solely on Koschitzke's development as a long-term key defender. As I mentioned in my take on James Frawley, I feel like signing Chip has effectively bought a year of development for Koschitzke, and I'd be buying time for as long as we need to. Koschitzke is very much the next guy in line - maybe the only one in the queue, in fact, with Brand shown the door - and so we really, really need this to work out. Koschitzke will be one to pay special attention to this year. If he's on track, he might just sneak a debut.





## #35 JOSH MORRIS

**DOB** 07-11-01 **Height** 186 cm **Weight** 76 kg **Debut** TBA  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0

✚ Promising forward target  
... No longer has mullet

### TIZZ SAYS...

C'mon guys, #35 - Morris-sey! Am I right?! Let's just call him The Freak already! A brief history lesson: James Morrissey shared the #35 with Gary Ablett Snr in 1983, but made it his own playing in three premierships from 1987-1993, and I'm calling it: Josh is officially The Freak 2.0, having drilled 33 goals from 7 games in the U18 Torrens Uni Cup comp, and 5 reserve SANFL games. A cynic might suggest the Hawks have taken a chance on a guy that hasn't properly proved his worth, but I'm thinking what he's done so far is barely scratch the surface of his talent. Let's see if the Hawks development programme can take this raw, athletic forward, who's quick to lead with a dead-eye for goal, and make him into the best half-back flanker in the AFL. Nah, just kidding - he loves his goals too much and he seems a natural forward at this point in time. Even Clarkson with his experimenting ways won't overlook that, surely? Anyway, Josh is another I'm going to enjoy watching. If nothing else, if the mullet returns, I'm sure he'll win the affection of Hawks fans in no time.

## #36 DYLAN MOORE

**DOB** 04-08-1999 **Height** 176 cm **Weight** 70 kg **Debut** 2019  
**Games** 2019: 7, Career: 7  
**Goals** 2019: 2, Career Total: 2



✚ Crafty goal-sneak  
... Still adjusting to senior footy

### NICK SAYS...

I'm gonna open with this: I really like Dylan Moore. I mean, how could you not? His 2018 VFL Finals series was heroic - four majors in a nail-biting prelim, and three the following week to see Box Hill home, the club winning its second flag in six years. At the time, I thought for sure he'd debut in 2019, and my expectations were sky-high. Anyway, my point is this: did you know Dylan Moore played seven senior games last year? If you had asked me prior to this write-up, I wouldn't have guessed seven. To that end, I think the most I could say about Moore's 2019 is that he had a perfectly servicable debut season. He didn't set the world on fire, but he didn't prove hopelessly out of his depth either. The question now is where he fits, and how Hawthorn get the best out of him. Moore has shown his talents as a crafty goal-sneak, and he also has potential as a link-up player hitting up forward targets. Hell, Hawthorn might even sus out his ability as a hard-working mid. Whatever the case, Moore has fallen back into the pack for now it seems, and it'll be huge if he manages to crack into the senior side. If he does, he's gonna need to seize his moment, like he did in 2018.





## #37 JACKSON ROSS

**DOB** 22-06-1999 **Height** 193 cm **Weight** 79 kg **Debut** TBA  Reliable goalkicker  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0  Requires some bulk

### TIZZ SAYS...

Ross looked to be a star in his first match for Box Hill, kicking 5 goals and collecting 16 disposals against Casey. Possessing a laser-like accuracy off his right boot, Ross has to be respected by his opponents. He didn't take too well to the closer treatment earlier in the year - but as he grew to accept it, he adapted to it, and eventually, Ross conquered it. He booted 35 goals over 18 games to sit atop the goal-kicking for Box Hill. His game is developing much quicker than expected, with excellent scoreboard impact and one-on-one marking stats. He'll be hoping to make the seniors in 2020, especially if he can put on some bulk in the pre-season. Just how he'll score such an opportunity with such a stacked forward line remains to be seen, but if he's able to recapture his amazing form, perhaps anything is possible. It's exciting times for a very determined and talented sportsman who once eyed-off an international tennis career. If you're looking for a reason to pay close attention to Box Hill in 2020, Ross provides it, his progress to date very promising.

## #38 D.MINCHINGTON

**DOB** 09-12-1993 **Height** 179 cm **Weight** 82 kg **Debut** 2013  Crafty small forward  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 28  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 22  Injury prone

### NICK SAYS...

The Hawks had a good look at Minchington all off-season, even going so far as to play him in the first Marsh Community Series hit-out, before taking him to Morwell a week later. It apparently wasn't enough to re-secure a spot on the list, the ex-Saint overlooked for Keegan Brooksby. From there, Minchington appeared all but ready to retire, perhaps alluding to his intentions via Instagram, but a cruel twist of fate for youngster Will Golds served as a lifeline. Minchington's career was suddenly revived, returning on a one-year deal via the Pre-Season Supplemental Selection Period. With all this in mind - and stating the bleeding obvious here - this is surely Minchington's last shot at the elite level. He has a year to make an impact, and Hawthorn have already telegraphed exactly what will happen if he doesn't. His body presents as the main obstacle at this point. Minchington has seemingly lived under an injury cloud so long, he might as well have his post forwarded there. With that being said, you'll excuse me if my expectations are low. He can play a role for sure, I have faith in that - Minchington just needs a bit of luck to stay fit and prove it beyond doubt.





## #39 EMERSON JEKA

**DOB** 18-09-2001 **Height** 198 cm **Weight** 91 kg **Debut** TBA  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0

⬢ Versatility, athleticism  
... Raw, injury history

### TIZZ SAYS...

"I don't want to be mediocre," declared Emerson Jeka in one of his earliest interviews with the club. I've seen his highlights, and he shouldn't be worried. This towering, contested-marking swingman, already a good size and shape, could develop very quickly, benefiting greatly from a better game plan and running onto kicks to his advantage. I know he's raw, but it's a raw and determined talent. Emerson was curbed by injury in his draft year and that let the Hawks take him in the Rookie draft. He watched on from the venue as others were selected in the draft, only to return home that night hoping he'd be rookie'd. It's that kind of uncertainty steels resolve and launches a career. I'm very excited the Hawks are giving him the chance. Jeka has a lot to bring to the table: his uncanny agility and overall athleticism for a big man, his aerial game, and the ability to bring down strong contested marks. Early days, of course, but Hawthorn will be hoping they have a key position player of the future. One to watch.

## #40 HARRISON JONES

**DOB** 15-03-1999 **Height** 185 cm **Weight** 80 kg **Debut** TBA  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0

⬢ Exciting 2019 for Box Hill  
... Coming off PCL injury

### NICK SAYS...

Footy can be cruel sometimes, an old axiom young Harry Jones learned the hard way in 2019. Hoping to score a call-up to the seniors, Jones' momentum was emphatically dashed by a season-ending PCL injury - both a personal blow and a costly loss for Box Hill. To that point, Jones had enjoyed a ripper season as a defender-turned-midfield bull, the 20-year-old averaging 21 disposals and six tackles across his 13 VFL games. It was a season in which Jones made major strides, his form difficult to ignore. I was all for a debut, but sadly, it wasn't to be. So where to now? Unfortunately for Jones, it's right back to the grind. With Mitchell returning from injury and slotting straight back into the senior side, and both Maginness and Cousins on the scene, earning that much-coveted AFL debut appears tougher than ever. Even more daunting for Jones is the fact he's on a one-year deal. It feels unfair to say, but with that comes a certain pressure. It's now over to Jones to pick up exactly where he left off and thrive as a dependable mid once more. I'm quietly confident that he will.



# #41 OLLIE HANRAHAN

**DOB** 27-08-1998 **Height** 181 cm **Weight** 75 kg **Debut** 2019  
**Games** 2019: 9, Career: 9  
**Goals** 2019: 7, Career Total: 7

✚ Dangerous small forward  
... Very light build

## TIZZ SAYS...

After increasing his defensive pressure stats in the Box Hill forward line, Hanrahan got the call up to seniors and looked comfortable at the level. Kicking 6 goals in his first 4 games, Ollie exhibited surprising consistency at AFL level for a 21-year-old small forward. Notably, he showed an ability to stick to his role and not be overawed, and there was a hint of Puopolo in how he went about it. He made sound decisions under pressure and seemed to relish the physicality of his defensive duties. Hanrahan certainly seized his chance, playing nine consecutive games to see out the year. That's impressive. He's the sort of player who won't leave the line-up easily. His effort will demand he's selected every week. And with Puopolo arguably in the twilight of his career, and some healthy competition from the other boys at Box Hill, there's plenty to drive Hanrahan in 2020. I'm very much looking forward to Ollie making the most of his opportunities again and solidifying his place in the 22. Get excited, Hawks fans - we have a punisher raring to tear some oppositions apart!

# #42 HARRY PEPPER

**DOB** 09-08-2001 **Height** 181 cm **Weight** 84 kg **Debut** TBA  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0

✚ Competitiveness, speed  
... Endurance

## NICK SAYS...

A quick flashback to the draft period - I must confess I thought the Hawks were done for the night. Even the club's social media channels seem to call it. Then, out of nowhere, Next Gen Academy prospect Harry Pepper had the spotlight, joining the brown and gold as a Category B rookie. Pepper certainly looks impressive on paper, the youngster touted as an ultra-competitive, mid-sized defender, with outstanding speed. In fact, he recorded a 2.95-second 20m sprint at the state draft combine - 0.01 faster than Finn Maginness. Pleasingly for Hawthorn, Pepper is also versatile, boasting experience both forward and back. Notably though, a switch to defence seemed to suit Pepper well, who used his pace and combativeness to make an impact. In fact, he progressed from a 7.4-disposal average for the Gippsland Power in 2018, to 16.5 disposals. How's that for development? If Hawthorn can shore up his endurance and work on his kicking, we might be seeing a handy player in years to come. Next generation indeed.





## #43 NED REEVES

**DOB** 31-10-1998 **Height** 208 cm **Weight** 96 kg **Debut** TBA

**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0

**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0

✚ He's tall. Like, really tall.

... Consistency

### TIZZ SAYS...

Did Ned keep growing after he was signed? This kid is enormous! But try to look past that - and also past who his father is - and you'll see a talented ruck, who tallied 30+ hit outs 3 times this year. Reeves tackles - granted, not as well as Pittonet tackles, but he's not there next year after going to Carlton. Therefore, a truckload of ruckload is going to fall squarely on the shoulders of Reeves into 2020, as Box Hill look to win the VFL premiership under Max Bailey. I'm optimistic - in fact, I reckon it'll be the making of the man. Ned needs this challenge, and he's got Deledio at his feet, Max in the box and couple of wise old rucks in McEvoy and Ceglar to get advice from. His size will mean he's always competitive at the contest, that's a given. In terms of areas of improvement, though, but he's got to learn to receive the ball better around the ground and pace his efforts. I'm hopeful we can add another young ruck to the list so Reeves can rest forward to work on his contested marking.

## #44 DAMON GREAVES

**DOB** 25-04-2000 **Height** 186 cm **Weight** 77 kg **Debut** TBA

**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0

**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0

✚ Solid defender

... Greater impact required

### NICK SAYS...

Damon Greaves is Box Hill's quiet achiever. A disciplined, composed and reliable defender, Greaves played 18 games in 2019, averaging 13.1 disposals and 7.6 kicks. With those sorts of numbers, Greaves seems like a solid contributor, and with everything I've read, his coaches certainly appear satisfied with his output. Me personally, I'm finding it tough to get too excited about Greaves right now, given he hasn't quite taken the bull by the horns like some of his teammates. As a defender, I'm not necessarily expecting anything flashy, but I'm scratching my head trying to identify, well, *that thing he does* (yes, that was a reference to the 1996 Tom Hanks film). Watching Greaves, I don't feel he's a liability to the side - far from it - but I also find myself being non-plussed, waiting for him to show something more. Fortunately for Greaves, he's been afforded time to find his identity as a footballer, re-signed by the club for an additional year. Hawthorn are clearly keen to persist and see what they have with him. With the club boasting defensive depth for days, Greaves - deep in the queue for a debut - has no time to waste in proving he can hang.





# #45 WILL GOLDS

**DOB** 06-05-2000 **Height** 181 cm **Weight** 70 kg **Debut** TBA  Endurance, cool head  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 0  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 0  Needs to sharpen up skills

## TIZZ SAYS...

Like a few other players on the list, Golds seemed destined to wind up representing Hawthorn. He's a Hawks mad youngster who was snapped up after other clubs overlooked his talent. Wright clearly saw the promising signs Hawks fans began to notice in 2019. His running ability and endurance allow him to impact games for longer than his contemporaries, but also permit him to run away from the crowd to score. He registered seven goals across the season, for Box Hill, some at important moments, speaking to his psychology under pressure. His poise and decision-making belie his age - sometimes his skills don't meet his intent - but those creases are being ironed out with each pre-season he completes. It's unfortunate we won't get to see Golds in action this year, the youngster having suffered an ACL injury. He's one to get excited about though, We wish him well and look forward to seeing what he can bring to the club when he's fit and firing again.

# #46 JAMES COUSINS

**DOB** 19-03-1998 **Height** 185 cm **Weight** 84 kg **Debut** 2017  Quality accumulator  
**Games** 2019: 12, Career: 19  
**Goals** 2019: 8, Career Total: 9  Lack of speed


## NICK SAYS...

In 2019, James Cousins got his best look at senior footy yet. He played almost every game up to the bye, and with the exception of an unusually quiet afternoon against Geelong, Cousins thrived as prolific inside mid. To Round 13, he averaged 18 disposals a game. Shortly after the mid-season break though, the club decided to shuffle things around, omitting Cousins. From there, he played like he had a point to prove at Box Hill, starring over consecutive weeks. Fans certainly took notice, and fortunately, so did the club. Hawthorn rewarded Cousins, signing him for another two years. And what an intriguing couple of years it'll be for the young lad. Frankly, Cousins has huge task ahead of him. It's going to take something phenomenal to a) elevate himself above the club's other young mids waiting in the wings, and b) find a way into the senior side's rock solid midfield group. I suppose the Hawks could use him forward, but there ain't a lack of competition for spots there either. As far as opportunities go, he's up against it. All Cousins can do is pick up where he left off last season, and hope he gets his chance again.





# KEEGAN BROOKSBY

**DOB** 27-04-1990 **Height** 197 cm **Weight** 99 kg **Debut** 2015  Eagles' WAFL B&F winner  
**Games** 2019: 0, Career: 14  
**Goals** 2019: 0, Career Total: 3  Lack of senior experience

## NICK SAYS...

Ruckman Keegan Brooksby was set to line-up for SANFL club North Adelaide this year, before Hawthorn finally moved to fill the void left by Marc Pittonet. It's a big sigh of relief - our ruck stocks are replenished, and I feel he serves as decent insurance. Brooksby has a decent list of accolades to his name. Let's go through his career chronologically: in 2014, he took out South Adelaide's best and fairest, before going on to captain the club in 2018. Averaging 35 hitouts and 15 disposals per game for SA, he attracted the attention of West Coast. Though he never scored a senior game with the club, the Eagles' decision to delist Brooksby last year came as a surprise to some, given he won their reserves' best and fairest following a dominant season in the WAFL. Essentially, Keegan Brooksby is a journeyman with the CV to suggest that, if called upon, he could pitch in and help out quite handily. Sifting through past match reports, there's mentions of Brooksby being an absolute monster, dominating around the ground, booting bags of goals on his best days. I'm not about to predict he'll excite the same way at Hawthorn, but I like that potential.

## ABOUT THE PODCAST

If you've enjoyed reading our predictions, you might enjoy listening to our podcast. We started it around four years ago and we've been riding the bumps with a grin ever since. During the season, we record weekly, and continue to cover all the news coming out of the club over the off-season.

One thing that we love about the podcast is the community of Hawks fans that's formed around it, all united by a passion for the brown and gold. So check us out! You can find us on Apple Podcasts, Soundcloud, Facebook, Twitter, and Patreon.

# TIZZ'S BEST 22

ROUND 1, 2020





# NICK'S BEST 22

ROUND 1, 2020



# 2020 UNIVERSAL FIXTURE

HAWTHORN FC  
BOX HILL HAWKS  
HAWTHORN VFLW

R1	Sun, Mar 22, 15:20	vs Bris	MCG
R2	Sun, Mar 29, 18:20	vs Bris	Optus Stadium
R1	Fr, Apr 3, 18:00	vs Coll	Holden Centre
R3	Sat, Apr 4, 13:45	vs Coll	MCG
R2	Mon, Apr 13, 12:00	vs Gee	MCG
R4	Mon, Apr 13, 15:20	vs Gee	MCG (R)
R3	Sun, Apr 19, 12:00	vs Blues	Marvel
R5	Sun, Apr 19, 15:20	vs Carl	Marvel
R6	Sat, Apr 25, 13:10	vs WCE	UTAS
R4	Sun, Apr 26, 14:00	vs FFC	Box Hill C.O.
R7	Sat, May 2, 19:25	vs WB	Marvel (R)
R5	-		
R1	Sun, May 10, 13:00	vs NM	Arden Street
R6	Sun, May 10, 13:20	vs NM	Marvel
R8	Sun, May 10, 16:40	vs NM	Marvel
R2	Sat, May 16, 11:30	vs Will	Box Hill C.O.
R7	Sat, May 16, 14:00	vs Will	Box Hill C.O.
R9	Sat, May 16, 19:25	vs Syd	MCG
R3	Sat, May 23, 11:30	vs WB	Box Hill C.O.
R8	Sat, May 23, 14:00	vs Foots.	Box Hill C.O.
R10	Sat, May 23, 13:45	vs Port	UTAS
R11	Fri, May 29, 19:50	vs Melb	MCG
R9	Sat, May 30, 14:00	vs Casey	Box Hill C.O.
R4	Sat, May 30, 14:00	vs D'bin	Bill Lawry Oval
R5	Sat, June 6, 11:30	vs Carl	Box Hill C.O.
R10	Sat, June 6, 14:00	vs Werr	Avalon Airport
R12	Sat, June 6, 16:35	vs GCS	Metricon
R13	Fri, June 12, 19:50	vs Gee	MCG
R11	Sat, June 13, 14:00	vs Gee	Box Hill C.O.
R6	Sun, June 14, 11:30	vs Will	Downer Oval

R14	BYE		
R12	BYE		
R7	BYE		
R15	Thurs, June 25, 19:20	vs Bris	Gabba
R8	Sat, June 27, 11:30	vs Saints	Box Hill C.O.
R13	Sat, June 27, 14:00	vs Zebras	Box Hill C.O.
R16	Thurs, July 2, 19:20	vs Ess	Marvel
R9	Sat, July 4, 11:30	vs Ess	Windy Hill
R14	Sat, July 4, 14:00	vs Ess	Windy Hill
R10	Sat, July 11, 12:00	vs Gee	Deakin Uni
R15	Sat, July 11, 14:00	vs Blues	Ikon Park
R17	Sat, July 11, 14:10	vs NM	UTAS
R11	Sat, July 18, 11:30	vs Darebin	Box Hill C.O.
R16	Sat, July 18, 14:00	vs P.Melb	Box Hill C.O.
R18	Sat, July 18, 13:45	vs GWS	MCG
R19	Fri, July 24, 19:20	vs Power	Adelaide Oval
R17	-		
R12	BYE		
R13	Sat, Aug 1, 11:30	vs Casey	Casey Fields
R18	Sat, Aug 1, 14:00	vs Casey	Casey Fields
R20	Sat, Aug 1, 19:25	vs St.K	Marvel (R)
R21	Sat, Aug 8, 16:35	vs Adel	UTAS
R14	Sun, Aug 9, 11:30	vs Ess	Box Hill C.O.
R19	Sun, Aug 9, 14:00	vs WFC	Box Hill C.O.
R15	Sat, Aug 15, 14:00	vs Rich	Punt Road Oval
R20	Sun, Aug 16, 12:00	vs Rich	MCG
R22	Sun, Aug 16, 15:20	vs Rich	MCG (R)
R16	Sat, Aug 22, 11:30	vs Coll	Box Hill C.O.
R21	Sat, Aug 22, 14:00	vs Coburg	Highgate Res.
R23	TBA	vs Syd	SCG



# 2020 GHOST FIXTURE WITH TIZZ

The Ghost fixture illustrates how tough our opponents will have it, particularly in their lead up to playing Hawthorn. It's a quick guide as to how teams will be feeling when they meet us.

Round	Date	Recovery Time	Opponent	Venue	H/A	Local Time	Ghost Fixture
1	Sun, March 22		Brisbane	MCG	H	3.20pm	
2	Sun, March 29	-1	Fremantle	OS	A	3.20pm	Essendon (A)
3	Sat, April 4	-4	Collingwood	MCG	H	1.45pm	Richmond (H)
4	Mon April 13	1	Geelong	MCG	A	3.20pm	West Coast (A)
5	Sun, April 19	0	Carlton	Marvel	H	3.20pm	Sydney (A)
6	Sat, April 25	-1.5	West Coast	UTAS	H	1.10pm	Richmond (H)
7	Sat, May 2	1	WB	Marvel	A	7.25pm	Port Adelaide (A)
8	Sun, May 10	2	NM	Marvel	A	4.40pm	Sydney (A)
9	Sat, May 16	0	Sydney	MCG	H	7.25pm	West Coast (A)
10	Sat, May 23	0	Port Adelaide	UTAS	H	1.45pm	Brisbane (H)
11	Fri, May 29	1	Melbourne	MCG	H	7.50pm	WB (H)
12	Sat, June 6	2	Gold Coast	Metricon	A	4.35pm	Essendon (A)
13	Fri, June 12	-8	Geelong Cats	MCG	H	7.50pm	Bye
14	Bye	0					
15	Thurs, June 25	8	Brisbane	Gabba	A	7.20pm	Melbourne (H)
16	Thurs, July 2	0	Essendon	Marvel	A	7.20pm	WB (A)
17	Sat, July 11	3.5	NM	UTAS	H	2.10pm	GWS (H)
18	Sat, July 18	1	GWS	MCG	H	1.45pm	Essendon (H)
19	Fri, July 24	0	Port Adelaide	AO	A	6.50pm	Sydney (A)
20	Sat, August 1	2	St Kilda	Marvel	A	7.25pm	Brisbane (A)
21	Sat, August 8	-1.5	Adelaide	UTAS	H	4.35pm	Richmond (H)
22	Sun, August 16	1	Richmond	MCG	A	3.20pm	Carlton (A)
23	TBC	-1	Sydney	SCG	A	TBC	Essendon (A)

Richmond, West Coast and Sydney will determine the form and energy levels of eight of our opponents over the course of the season. On three occasions, Hawthorn's ghost opponent will meet Richmond the week prior. This is the case for Collingwood, Adelaide and West Coast. Speaking of West Coast, both Sydney and Geelong return from WA to play Hawthorn, having faced the Eagles. Meanwhile, three teams - Carlton, North Melbourne and Port Adelaide - will meet Hawthorn having played Sydney on their home turf.

Meeting Collingwood after they have played the Dogs then the Tigers in six days bodes well. They'll be under a lot of pressure. The Easter Monday clash will be on the back of the Cats traveling to WA to meet Tim Kelly. And something for Nick to relish: we'll meet the 'Roos after a trip to WA for WCE, followed up by a GWS clash before us.

It's important to consider the turnaround times between games and I've calculated relative recovery times in days. It takes into account travel between venues and the number of days break between rounds. Regarding Rounds 6 and 21, we'll probably see Clarko make some changes to the ease loading in the engine room, and give players time to get their bodies right.

# OPPOSITION WATCH

aka. A BRIEF LOOK AT HAWTHORN'S RIVALS AND THEIR CHANCES

## ADELAIDE

Tizz: Nicks takes over this year, and the task is cultural change. Expect little attacking flair.

Nick: Zero expectations. The total reset has begun.

## BRISBANE

Tizz: Much harder fixture this year will see a banged-up list reach finals.

Nick: It'll be tough for the Lions but they won't fall away badly as some have predicted.

## CARLTON

Tizz: The Cripps show. Brownlows before Cups.

Nick: I'm concerned they've turned a corner.

## COLLINGWOOD

Tizz: Nearly there again, stumbling into finals. Pendles extremely important, yet again.

Nick: The Pies will likely challenge again, but won't win it all.

## ESSENDON

Tizz: Are they tanking?

Nick: Not finals bound, and wouldn't win one anyway.

## FREMANTLE

Tizz: Expect big upsets and the purple haze getting carried away with itself. Grimace.

Nick: They'll hover outside the eight, I reckon.

## GEELONG

Tizz: Last year was their chance. They let it slip. I don't see them being the better for it.

Nick: So keen for them to slide finally. They will.

## GOLD COAST

Tizz: There'll be times when they back themselves and surprise some teams. Look out, Port!

Nick: They'll improve. Of course they will. The bar is low.

## GWS

Tizz: Stung into insanely good footy in 2020. Changes to forward movement? Look out.

Nick: Not as good as last year. (see: severe PTSD)

## MELBOURNE

Tizz: I'm climbing on this bandwagon in the hope my added weight sees it breakdown.

Nick: Well, it couldn't get much worse. They'll make some gains this year.

## NORTH MELBOURNE

Tizz: A good mix in the list. An unexpected threat to top four if the forward line peaks..

Nick: Some sneaky upset wins would be typical North. Not a contender though.

## PORT POWER

Tizz: Powell-Pepper finally struts his stuff. Fall short of finals due to losses to GCS.

Nick: The least dependable team in the comp remains that way. Oh, the irony!



# OPPOSITION WATCH

aka. A BRIEF LOOK AT HAWTHORN'S RIVALS AND THEIR CHANCES

## **RICHMOND**

Tizz: They'll start well, then fade away. 2019 in reverse.

Nick: Nothing to suggest they won't be the ones to chase.

## **ST.KILDA**

Tizz: They're back baby, with no expectations and Ratten at the helm. All fun at Moorabbin!

Nick: Expecting massive improvement. Pushing for the eight.

## **SYDNEY**

Tizz: Like a soccer club clinging on to avoid relegation, it's the survivor mindset in Sydney.

Nick: The rebuild continues. Not expecting too much.

## **WEST COAST**

Tizz: Structured. Mature. Hungry? Expectations will weigh heavily with Kelly there now.

Nick: An easy lock for finals. Probably top four.

## **WESTERN BULLDOGS**

Tizz: All talk, no follow-through. They'll have a style that doesn't suit their list in 2020.

Nick: I think they'll go close this year. Will be tough to stop.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This zine could not have been possible without the support from our many Patreon subscribers. We extend our sincere thanks to Brent, Angus, Laura, Corey, Darcy, Alexander, Lyne, Bradley, Jay, Alan, Liam, Breedo, Andrew, Tony, Tim, Wattle, Brash, Paul, Paul, Marilyn, Milo, Jacob, Rebecca, HoboJake, Ramone, Harley, John, Deborah, Charmaine, Peter, Erin, Stuart, Doug, Sheridan, Frank, Karlo, Jack, Daniel, Obsessive, Neil, Melissa, and Pam. Thanks also to past subscribers - you also made this possible. Support the show by heading to [Patreon.com/HawkTalkPod](https://Patreon.com/HawkTalkPod).

We'd also like to thank those who have guested on the podcast so far and have contributed to the show. We'd like to extend a special shout-out to Ash Browne, who has been wonderfully kind and supportive across the journey, and very generous with his time as a recurring guest.

Nick: I'd like to thank my Dad, a big supporter of the podcast, and without whom I would not be a proud, passionate and paid up Hawthorn supporter (or exist). Thanks also to my brother, and to Hawk Headquarters, for helping me discover the thing I love about football: community. You inspired this podcast.

Tizz: To my Dad for his booming encouragements from the sidelines. For my sister, for lining up with me at 1am each Grand Final day. And to Mum, who shocked me with her fandom in '08! Finally, that guernsey, #24 - love ya work!





# HAWK TALK PODCAST

Complete Season 2020 Preview



## FIND US ONLINE

Apple Podcasts, Soundcloud

Facebook - [facebook.com/hawktalkpod](https://facebook.com/hawktalkpod)

Twitter - [twitter.com/hawktalkpod](https://twitter.com/hawktalkpod)

Patreon - [patreon.com/hawktalkpod](https://patreon.com/hawktalkpod)